

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-14 SCI-06

FEA-02 INT-08 DRC-01 /187 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2070

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1292

KUWAIT FOR SOBER.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER TO UAE

1. THREE-DAY VISIT TO U.A.E. SEPT. 18-21 BY DEPUTY ASST SECY SOBER WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL. IN SPITE OF RAMADAN, AND FACT THAT AT ANY GIVEN TIME FIFTY PERCENT OF UAEG IS LIKELY TO BE OUT OF COUNTRY, TIMING COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER. SHAIKH ZAYID RECEIVED SOBER AND AMBAS-SADOR FOR TWO-HOUR MEETING DURING WHICH RULER WAS RELAXED AND COMMUNICATIVE. SHORTER BUT USEFUL MEETINGS WERE ARRANGED WITH ALL OF SHAIKH ZAYID'S KEY ADVISORS, SOLE EXCEPTION BEING MINPET OTAIBA WHO OUT OF COUNTRY. CALLS ON SHAIKH RASHID OF DUBAI AND SULTAN OF SHARJAH WERE ALSO POSSIBLE.

2. AS SECY SOBER DISCOVERED, HE ARRIVED DURING PERIOD OF FERMENT WITHIN UAE. ZAYID AND HIS LIEUTENANTS, FRESH FROM SUCCESS OF SAUDI AGREEMENT, ARE GIVING SERIOUS THOUGHT TO LAUNCHING NEW PHASE OF INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THEY
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OBVIOUSLY SEE RELATIONS WITH USG AS IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ACHIEVING

THIS OBJECTIVE, BOTH IN POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TERMS.
ON SELECTIVE BASIS SOBER EFFECTIVELY STRESSED TO
UAEG OFFICIALS THREE MAIN THEMES OF US POLICY: OUR DESIRE
TO COOPERATE WITH UAE IN STRENGTHENING STABILITY IN
ARABIAN PENINSULA AND GULF; OUR CONCERN AT CONTINUING
UPWARD PRESSURE ON OIL PRICES BEING EXERTED BY OPEC
MEMBERS; AND OUR DESIRE TO STRENGTHEN US-UAE BILATERAL
RELATIONS. UAEG RESPONDED WARMLY TO THEMES ONE AND THREE,
AND AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED, WITH GREATER RESERVATION ON OIL
PRICE ISSUE. BUT EVEN ON THIS SUBJECT UAEG OFFICIALS WERE
WILLING TO HEAR OUR VIEWS.

3. SOBER VISIT HELPED TO REINFORCE US POLICY WITH
UAEG AND AT SAME TIME ELICITED SOME INTERESTING INSIGHTS
INTO WHAT IS CURRENTLY ON MINDS OF UAE LEADERS. WE WILL
BE REPORTING THESE CONVERSATIONS IN SEPARATE
TELEGRAMS NEXT FEW DAYS.
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